

Figure 10: Schematic depiction of the optical path for STIS coronagraphic imaging. The aperture mask, located at the corrected focal plane, provides wedges of varying width in both axes, permitting observer selection of the degree of occulting of a bright source. The Lyot stop (located very close to a pupil plane of the HST primary), reduces stray light from the outer edge of that mirror.

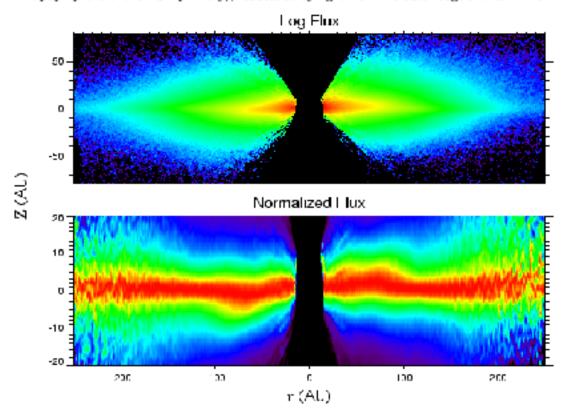


Figure 11: STIS coronagraphic images of the disk of β Pic. At top is the disk at a logarithmic stretch. At bottom is the disk normalized to the maximum flux at each radius, more clearly revealing the warping of the disk that may be indicative that planets have already formed in the β Pic system. See Ref. 15 for further details.